

30.7.31.

Yu Ya-ching Writes Replies; Woodhead Charges Evasion

Merchant Explains Anti-Japanese Activities; Writer Scores Evasion In Counter-Answer

Mr. Yu Ya-ching, prominent Shanghai merchant and arbiter, and long a member of the International Settlement Municipal Council, has answered the Open Letter on the anti-Japanese boycott addressed to him in the columns of The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury last Saturday by Mr. H.G.W. Woodhead, C.B.E.

Mr. Yu also has released an interview with the press in which he makes an effort to clear up many misunderstandings concerning his position as a supporter of the boycott. In the interview with the press Mr. Yu himself prepared the questions which he answers below.

After a study of the statements made in Mr. Yu's letter and interview with the press, as printed below, Mr. Woodhead has written another letter in answer to Mr. Yu. This also appears below:

Mr. Yu Ya-ching's open letter to
Mr. Woodhead:
H. G. W. Woodhead, Esq.
Shanghai.

Sir:

It was only yesterday when I had the opportunity of reading your open letter to me published in The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury of a day before on the subject of the Japanese boycott, and I was surprised to note the several points and inferences contained therein which showed that you had not had sufficient time to study the actual state of affairs that existed behind the present movement before you penned your letter and for this reason the references made in your letter as regards the movement and my position in relation thereto are misleading and suggest discrepancy with facts.

It would appear to me that your letter was motivated by a desire to solicit the goodwill of the Japanese nationals, and in this connection it might not be amiss for me to say that the Japanese themselves have entertained a clearer view of the whole situation that underlies the present movement than the nationals of any other countries who may speak for them but with whom the movement is not in the least concerned. It is regrettable that your letter might have the effect of arousing international antagonism, and be taken as a pretext by some aggressionists in Japan.

I have many a time read with appreciation the views and studies you made public previously on the several current problems affecting China and the world, but I cannot say that I am in agreement with your recent attitude towards certain of China's international problems in which you are interested. To me impartiality and a desire to face cold facts should guide the gentleman of the press in the pursuit of his noble profession.

Yours faithfully,
YU YA-CHING
Shanghai, July 27, 1931.

Answers Questions
"As a supplement to his speech delivered before the plenary meeting of the members of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce on the Japanese boycott, in the press report of which several mistakes and omissions have been found to have existed, the following conversation was exchanged between Mr. Yu Ya-ching, China's business leader and shipping magnate, and the press correspondent in an interview yesterday.

Question: Have you ever attended any of the meetings of the Anti-Japanese Association?

Answer: "No, I haven't attended any of the meetings of the Association."

Q: May I have your reason for not attending same?

A: "Because the Association elected me as its Chairman, and in my opinion, as the severance of economic relations with Japan means an extensive work in which businessmen will undoubtedly play an important part, the responsibility of chairmanship should be most adequately born by a member of the present presidium of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce."

Q: As you have not attended any of the meetings of the Anti-Japanese Association, may I know the reason why you attended the meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce held for the same purpose?

Q: "Duty To Attend"
A: "As I am a member of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, I considered it my duty to attend the meeting in which all the members of the Chamber were requested to be present, and to make use of the opportunity to explain to the different trade guilds which might have some misunderstanding as regards the present movement. Since the inception of the boycott movement, the price of Japanese yarn has risen to the extent of Tls. 20

pacifists, to whom we came to enquire of Japanese government, we should not mix the two with each other. As to the mass of the Japanese people, they are all speaking, upholding Sino-Japanese friendship. When I was in Japan, I was present at a mass meeting at Tokyo in which some thirty thousand Japanese participated, and they openly declared their opposition toward the aggressive policy of their Government but advocated instead Sino-Japanese solidarity. So when we deal with Japan, we should keep a close watch of the policy pursued by the faction in power.

"As regards the recent Korean incident, we should all back up our diplomatic authorities in their effort to exact a satisfactory settlement from Japan, and we should call their attention not only to such questions as punishment, indemnity and apology but also to the long expected conclusion of an equal and a reciprocal commercial treaty between China and Japan so that Sino-Japanese relations will be properly regulated by a mutually respected agreement.

"Since the expiration of the old Sino-Japanese commercial treaty and the protracted conclusion of a new one, Japan is a non-treaty power to China, and the fact that whether the Japanese Government is willing to enter into equal and reciprocal commercial relations with China in the concluding of the new treaty is a good proof that whether the Japanese Government is dominated by the pacifists or the aggressionists."

Mr. Woodhead's Reply
Yu Ya-ching, Esq.
Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

Your letter and interviews avoid the main issue in the Open Letter I addressed to you. You are far too experienced not to be aware that an anti-Japanese boycott can only be enforced by recourse to lawlessness and violence, and by the usurpation of powers which ought only to be exercised by the legislative and judicial authorities.

When that lawlessness and violence occur (they appear to have begun with the theft of allegedly Japanese goods from their lawful owners) will you take your stand as a Municipal Councillor, on the side of the rule of law, or as Chairman of the Anti-Japanese Association on the side of lawless interference with the persons and property of your fellow-citizens?

I am, etc.
H. G. W. WOODHEAD.

July 28, 1931.

Fwd
29/7/31

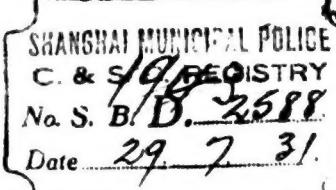
J.W.H.

"Unwise Policy"
"It is an unwise policy of the Chinese Government to effect an increase of the customs duties of the exported goods, but the Government has now become alive to the error thus committed and has begun to reduce tariff rates for all home-made products which are bound for other countries as a means to foster protection of native industries."

"As China is now threatened with another political upheaval in its history with the Shih Yu-shan reseparation in the south and communistic activities in the Central provinces, it is high time that our countrymen, being alive to the difficulties at present confronting the Government, should exercise every vigilance in our actions internally and externally and should not allow ourselves to be carried away by emotionalism and spur of the moment so as to leave some unpleasant traces in the wake."

Q: Is there any other views which you might wish to express?

"Two Opposing Facts"
A: "There are two opposing factions of Japanese politicians, one aggressionists and the other (Continued on Page 6 Col. 4)



The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Monday, July 27, 1931

Shipping Magnate Denies Attending Boycott Meeting

Yu Ya-ching Censures
Woodhead In Reply
To Open Letter

**FAVORS MEASURE
AGAINST JAPAN**
Sees Suffering Ahead
From Lack Of Raw
Materials

Replying to the open letter written by Mr. H.G.W. Woodhead, C.B.E., addressed to him and published in The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury on Saturday, Mr. Yu Ya-ching, shipping magnate and member of the Shanghai Municipal Council today denied that he had attended a meeting of the Anti-Japanese and Overseas Chinese Protection Association.

Though declaring himself in favor of the boycott of Japanese products, he continued that he personally does not stand for the complete severance of economic relations between China and Japan. He added that, quite apart from his statement this morning, made to an Evening Post and Mercury representative, he is writing a reply to Mr. Woodhead, in the form of a letter.

Hits Japanese Imperialism

"Mr. Woodhead wrote his open letter without ascertaining whether or not the information he received from fragments of newspaper reports were correct," Mr. Yu said this morning. "His letter not only will mislead the public but also will

be detrimental to Sino-British friendship. I am writing a reply to him.

"I have never attended any meeting of the Anti-Japanese and Overseas Chinese Protection Association. Personally I am not for the complete severance of economic relations with Japan although I do stand for boycott of Japanese goods as a protest against Japanese imperialism.

Hardship On Merchants

"The boycott of Japanese goods," Mr. Yu said, "should be handled in such a way that the Chinese merchants will not suffer but reap a harvest from their own products. The affairs of the Anti-Japanese and Overseas Chinese Protection Association, however, are in general handled by the representatives of the labor unions who fail to realize the strain the Chinese merchants must suffer and will suffer from the shortage of raw materials.

"The association is banning the importation of all Japanese goods, finished or raw materials. This, by no means, is the correct and efficient way. The boycott should be handled by merchants or their unions, and the District Chamber of Commerce which will rationally pass on the categories of goods to be banned or allowed to enter China soil.

Raps Boycott Regulations

"I do not know of the existence of regulations for the punishment of merchants who are found guilty of smuggling Japanese goods as cited by Mr. Woodhead in quoting the North-China Daily News," he continued. "If such regulations have been adopted, they have been drafted by the representatives of the labor unions. I would not vote for such measures.

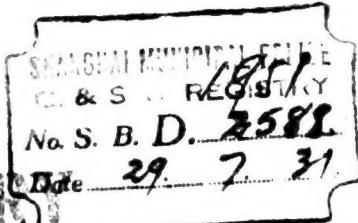
"This is all I can say for the time being. I expect to give a fuller reply to Mr. Woodhead, who is British and widely known for his activities in denouncing the Chinese people. My reply I will deliver to him this afternoon," Mr. Yu concluded.

Noted

MR. 29/7.

SI, Please note and pass to
Registry while Woodhead's
letter should also be filed.

MR. 29/7. 31



C. & S. REGISTRY
The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Tuesday, July 28, 1931

FILE

**Yu Ya-ching Under
Fire Over Statement**

Blow To Boycott Drive, 70
Leaders Say In Attack

Mr. Yu Ya-ching, local shipping magnate and a leading member of the Chinese community, was the target of an attack in Chinese newspapers this morning, in a letter signed by more than 70 Chinese residents, for his assertions in connection with the anti-Japanese boycott.

The letter declares that Mr. Yu insults Chinese business men by asserting that conscience must guide the activities of the boycott movement. The letter further states that the boycott is not confined to business circles alone but includes all other lines. It is, says the letter, a matter for the existence of the nation.

"We hope that you will give more consideration to your statements before making them public," the letter says. The statement also is made that the words of Mr. Yu have dealt a heavy blow to the boycott movement.

John
29/7/31

W.W.